

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 20-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 21, and 22 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-17 and 20 are allowed.

In view of the fact that claim 17 was indicated as being allowed, Applicant has added new independent claims 21 and 22, which have the same scope as original dependent claims 17/1 and 17/8.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura (6,360,287) in view of Lo et al. (6,324,178).

Statement of Substance of Interview

In a teleconference with the Examiner Nguyen, on March 21, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the recitations of dependent claims 18 and 19 are not disclosed by the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicant has added the recitations of dependent claims 18 and 19 to claims 1 and 8, respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/603,615

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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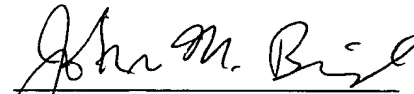
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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